

MARCH 6, 1976

KISSINGER, CONGRESS AND LATAM

ANNCR:

SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER REPORTED THURSDAY TO A CONGRESSIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE ABOUT HIS RECENT LATIN AMERICAN TOUR, AND HE HIGHLIGHTED WHAT HE FOUND TO BE THE MAJOR ISSUES OF CONCERN TO LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. V-O-A'S AL ORTIZ HAS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

DOCTOR KISSINGER REPORTED THAT LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS ARE CONCERNED OVER CUBA'S INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, AND WHAT THAT ACTION COULD REPRESENT FOR THE SECURITY OF WESTERN HEMISPHERE NATIONS. SECRETARY KISSINGER NOTED THAT HE DID NOT INITIATE THE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS ISSUE, AND HE INSISTED THAT HIS TRIP WAS NOT A CRUSADE AGAINST FIDEL CASTRO. BUT HE WARNED HAVANA TO--AS HE PUT IT--"ACT WITH GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION" AND AVOID ANY REPETITION ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA OF ITS ACTIONS IN ANGOLA. HE SAID HAVANA MUST NOT MISCONSTRUE AMERICAN MOVES THERE FOR SUCH A REPETITION.

SOME LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT CUBA HAD RESUMED ITS POLICY OF VIOLENTLY EXPORTING REVOLUTION, THIS TIME WITH THE OPEN AID OF THE SOVIET UNION. AFTER THE SECRETARY OF STATE WAS WINDING UP HIS TOUR IN COSTA RICA, HE RE-AFFIRMED THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION AND COLLECTIVE SECURITY OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. ANOTHER MAJOR ISSUE--- THE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA ON A NEW CANAL TREATY; ONE SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL NOTED DURING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP THAT THE CURRENT POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT CONDUCTIVE TO MAKING MAJOR CONCESSIONS TO PANAMA. BUT DOCTOR KISSINGER ASSURED THE LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AS THE UNITED STATES REMAINS DETER-

MINED TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TREATY. IN HIS TESTIMONY THURSDAY, DOCTOR KISSINGER TOLD THE CONGRESSMEN THAT THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE COULD POISON U.S. - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS; AND HE AGAIN POINTED OUT THAT THE CANAL COULD BE VULNERABLE TO ACTS OF SABOTAGE IF A NEW TREATY IS NOT REACHED.

TRADE REFORM WAS OF MAJOR CONCERN TO COLOMBIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES. (OPT) AND DOCTOR KISSINGER SAID THE UNITED STATES IS CAREFULLY CONSIDERING A COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL FOR A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN TRADE SYSTEM (END OPT.) IN VENEZUELA, DOCTOR KISSINGER PLEDGED THE UNITED STATES WILL COOPERATE WITH LATIN AMERICA IN SIX AREAS, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH THE NEEDS OF MORE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE WHILE MAINTAINING ASSISTANCE TO THE NEEDIEST NATIONS, THE NEGOTIATIONS OF DIFFERENCES ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT AND EQUALITY, AND THE COOPERATION WITH SUCH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS SELA--THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM FOR LATIN AMERICA. DOCTOR KISSINGER ANNOUNCED THAT SEVERAL AGENCIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION ARE ALREADY MEETING TO DISCUSS CONCRETE WAYS OF ACHIEVING THESE GOALS. HE EXPRESSED THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN DRAWING UP AN INTERNATIONAL CODE REGULATING BOTH NATIONAL AND CORPORATE CONDUCT IN INVESTMENT DISPUTES. AND HE SAID BRAZILIAN AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVES ARE BEGINNING TALKS IN WASHINGTON ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES AND DUTIES AS PART OF THE NEW CONSULTATIVE AGREEMENT THAT WAS SIGNED DURING DOCTOR KISSINGER'S STAY IN BRAZILIA.

THE SECRETARY AGAIN URGED CONGRESS TO LIFT THE BAN ON GENERALIZED TRADE PREFERENCES FOR VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, THE BAN THAT WAS IMPOSED BECAUSE OF THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION OF

PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES. (REST OPT) DOCTOR KISSINGER TOLD THE CONGRESSIONAL SUB-COMMITTEE THAT LATIN AMERICA IS PLAYING A GREATER ROLE IN WORLD POLITICS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS GROWING ECONOMIC STRENGTH BUT BECAUSE OF ITS SOLIDARITY WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN ASIA AND AFRICA. A TASK NOW, SAID THE SECRETARY, IS TO FORGE A COMMON BOND WITH LATIN AMERICA INTO A WORLD MODEL FOR ORDER, PROSPERITY AND HARMONY.

END